

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 5, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3 and 4 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,546,230 to Allison and Claims 2, 5 and 6 as being obvious over Allison in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,808 to Hollingsworth. In response, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the prior art. Applicant has canceled Claims 2, 5 and 6. Claims 3 and 4 depend from Claim 1 and Applicant believes they are therefore adequately distinguished from the prior art. For the reasons stated below, Applicant now believes the application to be in condition for allowance.

The patent to Allison discloses a computer system consisting of a main computer attached to one or more databases. The computer system may be accessed by a work station. The databases supply tests for measuring the skills of a person operating various types of analytical medical equipment. The computer is capable of storing the results of such tests. These may be accessed by employers or licensing or certifying institutions. The present invention, on the other hand, operates as a central hub connecting a work station or other computer system to a variety of institutions. The central processing unit may be accessed by employees, employers, regulatory institutions, continuing education services as well as licensing and service by an institution. The central computer may include databases storing tests that may be taken by an individual and its records stored in the central computer. Alternatively, the central computer may direct an individual to a separate institution's computer system that stores testing materials as well as other information. Licensing and certifying institutions may access the central computer to determine whether an individual has met its specific requirements. Continuing education services may also submit data to the central computer indicating

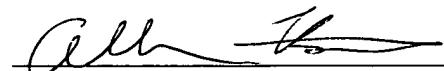
that an individual has attended non-computer based continuing education services. Employers may also access the central computer to determine whether an employee has met employer requirements. While the Allison patent discloses only a computer having one or more databases of materials for testing proficiency with various analytical equipment, the present invention comprises not only such databases but also access to current licensing and certifying status provided by various institutions as well as tests in continuing education services provided by a plurality of institutions. The Allison patent does not disclose a method of incorporating data concerning non-computer based continuing education as the present invention does. It also does not disclose a method for incorporating licensing and certifying of information provided by various institutions. It also does not provide a method for incorporating other computer systems having their own databases into the computer system. Similarly, the patent to Hollingsworth does not contemplate incorporating such diverse information through a centralized computer network.

Applicant believes that amended Claim 1 makes clear the distinctions outlined above. Neither patents to Allison nor Hollingsworth contemplate a computer system as multi-faceted as the present invention. Therefore, Applicant now believes the application to be in condition for allowance.

Enclosed is a Petition For One-Month Extension of Time and check in the amount of \$55.00 to cover such filing fee.

For all the above reasons, Applicant now believes that the application should be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If, for some reason, any other issues remain, a telephone conference with the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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